

Commissioner for Patents

SN 09/642,052

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10: previously cancelled

11. (currently amended) A method for providing audio and visual communication between a speaker and at least one hearing impaired person, the method comprising:

providing said speaker with a headset frame having a camera attached thereto and positioned to capture images of a mouth of said speaker's mouth;

providing said at least one hearing impaired person with at least one display, wherein sound emitted by said speaker and received by said hearing impaired person essentially does not allow said hearing impaired person to understand said speaker;

capturing continuous video images of said mouth of said speaker's mouth using said camera; and

transmitting said images in real-time in an uncompressed manner to said at least one display for said at least one hearing impaired person to view such that movement of said mouth of said speaker's mouth coincides with sound emitted by said speaker and enables said hearing impaired person to understand said speaker.

12. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

capturing continuous sound emitted by said speaker via a microphone attached to said headset frame; and

transmitting said sound in real time to at least one amplifying device located proximate to said at least one hearing impaired person such that speech of said speaker can be simultaneously heard from said speaker and through said amplifying device.

13. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said transmitting said images and transmitting said sound comprises transmitting via a wireless video signal and a wireless audio signal, respectively.

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14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said ~~wireless transmissions are transmitting via a wireless video signal and a wireless audio signal~~ comprises transmitting using low-power transmissions.

15. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said transmitting said images comprises transmitting via a wireless video signal.

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16. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said transmitting via a wireless video signal comprises transmitting via a low-power wireless video signal.

17. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said video signal and said audio signal are transmitted as two distinct signals on respective wave bands.

18. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said video signal is transmitted on a wave band located in a 902 to 928 MHz range, and wherein said audio signal is transmitted on a wave band located in a 72 to 76 MHz range.

19. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said amplifying device is a hearing aid device.

20. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least two ~~redundant channels are used for each of said video signal and said audio signal,~~ such that said at least one hearing impaired person can choose according to best reception.

21. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein voice recognition is performed on said speech of said speaker to transform said speech in written form.

22. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said written form is output on said at least one output display for said at least one hearing impaired person to visualize.

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23. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said voice recognition is performed on said speech and on said video images.

24. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim ~~11~~12, wherein said voice recognition is performed on said video images of said speaker to transform said speech into written form.

B² 25. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said written form is output on said at least one display for said at least one hearing impaired person to visualize.

26. (previously added) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein each of said at least one hearing impaired person is provided with a display.

27. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said camera is positioned to capture images of said mouth of said speaker's mouth and facial expressions of said speaker.

28. (new) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said hearing-impaired person has a diminished sense of hearing.

29. (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said hearing impaired person has an essentially unobstructed view of said speaker and receives said sound emitted by said speaker through air.